1S—20. REVELATION. 951   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION. | AUTIIORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
   
 seven charches: and theland the seven candlesticks ¢ are Zech: v.2   
 thow sawest are the seven seven churehes.   
 churches, Omitted all   
 curotdert   
 ise,   
 &c.).—The seven stars are (signify) [the] this from individuals to nations in the book   
 angels of the seven churches: and the jel, which is so often the key to   
 seven candlesticks are seven churches \yptic See Dan. x. 21,   
 (the import of the angels has been much xii. 1: an analogy according to which there   
 disputed. Very many both ancient and might well be angels not only of indivi-   
 modern Commentators take them for the duals, but of church 5) The fact that   
 presiding presbyters, or bishops, of the throughout these Epistles, nothing is ever   
 churches. This view is variously sup- addressed individually as to a teacher, but   
 ported. It derives probability from the as to some one person reflecting as it were   
 analogy of the vision itself, in which, see- the complexion and fortunes of the church   
 ing that the candelabra represent the ina way in which no mere huinan teacher   
 churches themselves, existing vessels con- or ruler could. That there is no exception   
 taining much light, the stars, to this in ch. ii. see maintained in note   
 sparks of light, should represent some there. 6) To the objection advanced in   
 actually existing persons in or counceted the comment of Arethas, that “the pre-   
 with the churches. Again it is siding angel had not sinned, so as to want   
 by our finding that throughout the seven exhorting to repent, &e.,” the reply may he   
 Epistles the angel is treated as represent- made, with advantage to this interpreta-   
 ing and responsible for the particular tion, that there evidently is revealed to us   
 church. But before we pass on to the a mysterious connexion between minist   
 other great section of interpretation, we ing angels and those to whom they minis-   
 may at once dismiss those forms of this one ter, by which the former in some Way are   
 which make the angel the ideal represen- tinged by the fates and fortuncs of the   
 dative of the governing body, or an ideal latter. KE. g. in our Lord’s saying cited   
 messenger from the church, or an antici- above, the place of dignity there asserted   
 jntory idea of the office of Bishop, not yet of the angels of the little children is un-   
 instituted : in short, any i m at all. questionably connected with the character   
 ‘As the church is an objective reality, so of those whose angels they are: and it   
 ust the angel be, of whatever kind. This cannot be following out such a revelation   
 consideration will also affect current of too fir to say that, if some of the hol   
 interpretation which takes the angels to be angels are thus and for this reason ad-   
 the churches themselves. The second line vanced to honour, others may be similarly,   
 of interpretation is that which regards and for the opposite reason, placed in less   
 them as angels, in some way representing honour and relatively disgraced. That   
 the churches. In favour of this is 1) the this idea is found expressed in the Rabbi-   
 constant usage of this book, in which the nical writings is a mark of the further   
 word angel occurs only in this sense: 2) development of the truth, which seems to   
 the further usage of this book, in which we have been first revealed to Daniel. 7) It   
 have, ch. xvi. 4, the angel of the waters will be perceived that this interpretation   
 introduced without any explanation, who does not lie under any of the objections   
 can be none other than the angel presiding stated above as idealizing that which ought.   
 over the waters: 3) the expression of our to be an objective reality. For it contem-   
 Lord Himself, Matt. x 10, “ their an- plates the angels of the churches as really   
 gels in heaven do always behold the face existent, not as ideal beings. It is only   
 ‘of my Father which is in heaven,” coupled when this latter is case, that those ob-   
 with that expressed by the church in the jections can apply. 8) It will also be p   
 house of Mary the mother of John Mark, 38Q2 ‘ceived, both the circumstances, which   
 Acts xii. 15, with regard to their disbelief were cited as making for the former inter-   
 of Peter standing at the door, “it is his pretation, tell equally for viz. that   
 angel :” both asserting the doctrine that just noticed, the actual existence of these   
 angels are allotted to persons, and are persons in or belonging to the churches,   
 regarded as representing them: a subject and b) the fact that in the Epistles the   
 full of mystery, and requiring circumspect angel is treated as representing and re-   
 treatment, but by no means to be put aside, sponsible for the particular church.   
 as is commonly done. 4) The extcusiou of So that I caunot but regard this second